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8  
9 *Attorney for Plaintiff Elizabeth Chuakay*  
10 *and the Proposed Class*

11 [Additional counsel appear on signature page]

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ELIZABETH CHUAKAY, On Behalf of ) Case No. 3:17-cv-58  
12 Himself and All Others Similarly Situated, )  
13 Plaintiff, ) **CLASS ACTION**  
14 vs. ) **COMPLAINT FOR**  
15 ) **VIOLATION OF THE**  
16 BROCADE COMMUNICATIONS ) **FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS**  
17 SYSTEMS, INC., LLOYD A. CARNEY, ) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED  
18 JUDY BRUNER, RENATO A. DIPENTIMA, )  
19 ALAN L. EARHART, JOHN W. )  
20 GERDELMAN, KIM C. GOODMAN, )  
21 DAVID L. HOUSE, L. WILLIAM KRAUSE, )  
22 DAVID E. ROBERSON, and SANJAY )  
23 VASWANI, )  
24 Defendants. )

Plaintiff Elizabeth Chuakay (“Plaintiff”), by her undersigned attorneys, alleges the following on information and belief, except as to the allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based on personal knowledge.

**NATURE AND SUMMARY OF THE ACTION**

1. Plaintiff brings this action as a public stockholder of Brocade Communications Systems, Inc. (“Brocade” or the “Company”) against the members of Brocade’s Board of

1 Directors (the “Board” or the “Individual Defendants”) and Brocade for their violations of  
2 Sections 14(a) and 20(a), and Rules 14a-9, 17 C.F.R. 240.14a-9, 17 C.F.R. § 244.100, and 17  
3 C.F.R. § 229.1015(b)(4) promulgated thereunder by the U.S. Securities and Exchange  
4 Commission (the “SEC”). Specifically, the Individual Defendants solicit stockholder  
5 approval of the sale of the Company to Broadcom Limited and Broadcom Corporation  
6 (together, “Broadcom” or “Parent”) through Broadcom’s wholly owned subsidiary (“Merger  
7 Sub”) (the “Proposed Transaction”) through a proxy statement that omits material facts  
8 necessary to make the statements therein not false or misleading.

9       2. On November 2, 2016, the Company announced that it had entered into a  
10 definitive agreement (the “Merger Agreement”) by which Broadcom, through its wholly  
11 owned subsidiary, Bobcat Merger Sub, Inc. (“Merger Sub”), would acquire Brocade through  
12 a long-form merger to acquire all of the outstanding shares of Brocade for \$12.75 per share in  
13 cash (the “Proposed Transaction”). The Proposed Transaction is valued at approximately  
14 \$5.5 billion.

15       3. On December 6, 2016, the Company filed a Preliminary Proxy on Schedule  
16 14A (the “Preliminary Proxy”) with the SEC. On December 20, 2016, the Company filed a  
17 Definitive Proxy on Schedule 14A (the “Definitive Proxy”) with the SEC. The Definitive  
18 Proxy is materially deficient and misleading because, *inter alia*, it fails to disclose material  
19 information about the process leading to the Merger Agreement. Without all material  
20 information Brocade stockholders cannot make an informed decision regarding the  
21 stockholder vote scheduled for January 26, 2017. The failure to disclose such material  
22 information in a non-misleading way constitutes a violation of §§ 14(a) and 20(a) of the  
23 Exchange Act as stockholders need such information in order to make a fully-informed vote  
24 in connection with the Proposed Transaction.

25       4. For these reasons and as set forth in detail herein, the Individual Defendants  
26 have violated federal securities laws. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks to enjoin the Proposed  
27 Transaction or, in the event the Proposed Transaction is consummated, recover damages  
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1 resulting from the Individual Defendants' violations of these laws. Judicial intervention is  
2 warranted here to rectify existing and future irreparable harm to the Company's stockholders.

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 5. The claims asserted herein arise under §§ 14(a) and 20(a) of the Exchange  
5 Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to § 27 of the  
6 Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78aa, and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question jurisdiction).

7 6. The Court has personal jurisdiction over all of the defendants because each is  
8 either a corporation that conducts business in and maintains operations in this District, or is  
9 an individual who is either present in this District for jurisdictional purposes or has sufficient  
10 minimum contacts with this District so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court  
11 permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

12 7. Venue is proper in this District under § 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C.  
13 §78aa, as well as pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because: (i) the conduct at issue took place  
14 and had an effect in this District; (ii) Brocade maintains its principal place of business in this  
15 District and each of the Individual Defendants, and Company officers or directors, either  
16 resides in this District or has extensive contacts within this District; (iii) a substantial portion  
17 of the transactions and wrongs complained of herein, occurred in this District; (iv) most of  
18 the relevant documents pertaining to Plaintiff's claims are stored (electronically and  
19 otherwise), and evidence exists, in this District; and (v) defendants have received substantial  
20 compensation in this District by doing business here and engaging in numerous activities that  
21 had an effect in this District.

22 **THE PARTIES**

23 8. Plaintiff is, and has been at all times relevant hereto, a stockholder of Brocade.

24 9. Defendant Lloyd A. Carney ("Carney") is Brocade's Chief Executive Officer  
25 and a director of the Company.

26 10. Defendant Judy Bruner ("Bruner") has served as a director of the Company  
27 since January 2009.

1       11. Defendant Renato A. DiPentima (“DiPentima”) has served as a Director of the  
2 Company since January 2007.

3       12. Defendant Alan L. Earhart (“Earhart”) has served as a director of the  
4 Company since February 2009.

5       13. Defendant John W. Gerdelman (“Gerdelman”) has served as a director since  
6 January 2007.

7       14. Defendant Kim C. Goodman (“Goodman”) has served as a director of the  
8 Company since February 2016.

9       15. Defendant David L. House (“House”) has served as a director of the Company  
10 since February 2004 and Chairman of the Board since December 2005.

11       16. Defendant L. William Krause (“Krause”) has served as a director of the  
12 Company since 2004.

13       17. Defendant David E. Roberson (“Roberson”) has served as a director of the  
14 Company since April 2014.

15       18. Defendant Sanjay Vaswani (“Vaswani”) has served as a director of the  
16 Company since April 2004.

17       19. Defendants Carney, Bruner, DiPentima, Earhart, Gerdelman, Goodman,  
18 House, Krause, Roberson, and Vaswani are collectively referred to herein as the “Individual  
19 Defendants,” and the Individual Defendants are sometimes collectively referred to herein as  
20 the “Board.”

21       20. Defendants Brocade and the Individual Defendants are collectively referred to  
22 as the “Defendants.”

23       21. Broadcom, a non-party, is a designer, developer, and supplier of analog and  
24 digital semiconductor connectivity solutions. Broadcom operates primarily in four markets:  
25 wired infrastructure, wireless communications, enterprise storage, and industrial. Broadcom  
26 is co-headquartered in Singapore and San Jose, California.

27       22. Non-party Merger Sub is a Delaware corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary

1 of Broadcom, and a party to the Merger Agreement.

2 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

3 23. Plaintiff brings her claims against the Individual Defendants as a class action  
4 pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of all persons and  
5 entities that own Brocade common stock (the “Class”). Excluded from the Class are  
6 defendants and their affiliates, immediate families, legal representatives, heirs, successors or  
7 assigns and any entity in which defendants have or had a controlling interest.

8 24. Plaintiff’s claims are properly maintainable as a class action under Rule 23 of  
9 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

10 25. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. While  
11 the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can only be  
12 ascertained through discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are thousands of members in the  
13 Class. As of October 31, 2016, there were approximately 402 million shares of Company  
14 common stock issued and outstanding. All members of the Class may be identified from  
15 records maintained by Brocade or its transfer agent and may be notified of the pendency of  
16 this action by mail, using forms of notice similar to that customarily used in securities class  
17 actions.

18 26. Questions of law and fact are common to the Class and predominate over  
19 questions affecting any individual Class member, including, among inter alia:

20 (a) Have the Defendants solicited stockholder approval of the Proposed  
21 Transaction with a materially false, misleading and/or incomplete proxy statement;

22 (b) Is the Class entitled to injunctive relief or damages as a result of  
23 Defendants’ wrongful conduct; and

24 (c) Whether Plaintiff and the other members of the Class would be  
25 irreparably harmed were the transactions complained of herein consummated.

26 27. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class, and has no  
27 interests contrary to or in conflict with those of the Class that Plaintiff seeks to represent.  
28

Plaintiff has retained competent counsel experienced in litigation of this nature.

28. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

29. Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class with respect to the matters complained of herein, thereby making appropriate the relief sought herein with respect to the Class as a whole.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

## **Background of the Company**

30. Brocade develops storage area networking (“SAN”) and Internet protocol (“IP”) products and solutions for businesses and organizations world wide. The Company provides products and services to telecommunications firms, cable operators, and mobile carriers. Brocade also sells its products directly to end-users and through its distribution partners. Brocade was founded in 1995 and is based in San Jose, California.

31. In a press release dated November 2, 2016, the Company announced that it had entered into the Merger Agreement with Broadcom Corporation, Broadcom Limited and Broadcom Limited's subsidiary, Merger Sub, pursuant to which the Company will be acquired by Broadcom and Brocade stockholders will receive \$12.75 in cash for each share of Brocade common stock. This represents a total equity value of approximately \$5.5 billion.

32. In relevant part, the press release reads:

SINGAPORE and SAN JOSE, Calif., November 2nd, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — Broadcom Limited (Nasdaq:AVGO) and Brocade Communications Systems, Inc. (Nasdaq:BRCD) today announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement under which Broadcom will acquire Brocade, a leader in Fibre Channel storage area network (“FC SAN”) switching and IP networking, for \$12.75 per share in an all-cash transaction valued at approximately \$5.5 billion, plus \$0.4 billion of net debt. Broadcom expects to fund the transaction with new debt financing and cash available on its balance sheet. Broadcom, with the support of Brocade, plans to divest Brocade’s IP Networking business, consisting of wireless and campus networking, data center switching and routing, and software networking solutions.

1        “This strategic acquisition enhances Broadcom’s position as one of the leading  
 2 providers of enterprise storage connectivity solutions to OEM customers,”  
 3 stated Hock Tan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Broadcom. “With  
 4 deep expertise in mission-critical storage networking, Brocade increases our  
 5 ability to address the evolving needs of our OEM customers. In addition, we are  
 6 confident that we will find a great home for Brocade’s valuable IP networking  
 7 business that will best position that business for its next phase of growth.”  
 8

9        “This transaction represents significant value for our shareholders, who will  
 10 receive a 47% premium from the Brocade closing share price on Friday,  
 11 October 28, 2016, and creates new opportunities for our customers and  
 12 partners,” said Lloyd Carney, Chief Executive Officer of Brocade. “Our best-in-  
 13 class FC SAN solutions will help Broadcom create one of the industry’s  
 14 broadest portfolios for enterprise storage. We will work with Broadcom as it  
 15 seeks to find a buyer for our IP Networking business which includes a full  
 16 portfolio of open, hardware and software-based solutions spanning the core of  
 17 the data center to the network edge.”  
 18

19       Upon closing, the transaction is expected to be immediately accretive to  
 20 Broadcom’s non-GAAP free cash flow and earnings per share. Broadcom  
 21 currently anticipates that Brocade’s FC SAN business will contribute  
 22 approximately \$900 million of pro forma non-GAAP EBITDA in its fiscal year  
 23 2018.  
 24

25       The board of directors of Brocade and the Executive Committee of the board of  
 26 directors of Broadcom have unanimously approved the transaction, which is  
 27 presently expected to close in the second half of Broadcom’s fiscal year 2017  
 28 which commenced on October 31, 2016, subject to regulatory approvals in  
 various jurisdictions, customary closing conditions as well as the approval of  
 Brocade’s stockholders. The closing of the transaction is not subject to any  
 financing conditions, nor is it conditioned on the divestiture of Brocade’s IP  
 Networking business.

#### **The Process Preceding the Execution of the Proposed Transaction**

29       33. On May 19, 2016, representatives of Broadcom met with representatives of  
 30 Brocade in order to convey their desire to acquire Brocade’s fiber channel business. While  
 31 no terms were discussed, Broadcom informed Brocade that it hoped to complete such an  
 32 acquisition “expeditiously.” The two sides discussed scheduling a meeting between the  
 33 CEOs of the two companies.

34. On June 2, 2016, a representative of Silver Lake Partners, an investor in  
 35 Broadcom, met with Defendant Carney in order to discuss various strategic transactions  
 36

1 between Broadcom and Brocade. During this meeting, Defendant Carney indicated that  
2 Brocade's fiber channel business was not for sale.

3 35. When Defendant Carney met with the CEO of Broadcom, Mr. Hock E. Tan,  
4 later that day, he indicated that Brocade planned to continue its standalone strategy,  
5 particularly given its recently completed acquisition of Ruckus Wireless, Inc.

6 36. On June 6, 2016, Mr. Tan called Defendant Carney to indicate Broadcom's  
7 interest in acquiring Brocade as a whole. While Defendant Carney noted that the Company  
8 was not for sale, he stated that he would bring any unsolicited proposal to the Board.  
9 Defendant Carney discussed this call and the previous meeting with the Board in a previously  
10 scheduled meeting on July 7, 2016. While the Board agreed with Defendant Carney's initial  
11 refusal of an acquisition proposal, it agreed it would consider any unsolicited proposal in line  
12 with its fiduciary duties.

13 37. On July 14, 2016, Mr. Tan communicated an initial indication of interest via  
14 email to Defendant Carney. This indication of interest lacked any pricing information, but  
15 hoped for accelerated, exclusive negotiations. The Definitive Proxy does not state whether  
16 this indication of interest discussed any post-merger plans for the employment of Brocade  
17 management.

18 38. Later that day, Company management informed the Board of its receipt of the  
19 Broadcom initial offer.

20 39. On July 20, 2016, the Board met with members of Evercore and its legal  
21 advisor, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati ("Wilson Sonsini"). The Company, as part of its  
22 acquisition of Ruckus Wireless, Inc. and other acquisitions, had recently engaged Evercore  
23 and determined to do so again given its familiarity with the Company. The Board discussed  
24 the process it should run to determine the Company's standalone value and as part of an  
25 acquisition.

26 40. Seemingly unfamiliar with how they should evaluate Evercore's compensation  
27 for the engagement, Brocade's CFO, Dan Fairfax, discussed fees with them, and on July 21,  
28

1 2016, Evercore sent Mr. Fairfax “a summary of past transactions and fees paid to investment  
2 bankers for those transactions, for reference.”

3 41. On July 22, 2016, the Company decided to engage Evercore rather than seek  
4 alternative financial advisors.

5 42. On August 30, 2016, Defendant Carney met again with Mr. Tan. Defendant  
6 Tan stated that it would be prepared to deliver a revised indication of interest on September  
7 14, 2016, including pricing information.

8 43. On September 8, 2016, the Company executed a non-disclosure agreement  
9 with Broadcom to facilitate due diligence, even before Broadcom provided any pricing  
10 information for its offer.

11 44. During a meeting on September 12, 2016, the Corporate Development  
12 Committee and Defendant Bruner reviewed due diligence materials and a management  
13 presentation from Wilson Sonsini and Evercore, providing a preliminary financial analysis of  
14 the Company’s value based on projections made in September. Following the meeting, the  
15 Corporate Development Company asked Company management to provide due diligence  
16 materials to Broadcom before a meeting scheduled for September 14, 2016. Later that day,  
17 Company Management provided the September projections and other diligence materials to  
18 Broadcom.

19 45. On September 14, 2016, the Company and Broadcom held a due diligence  
20 meeting.

21 46. On September 15, 2016, Defendant Carney and Mr. Tan met to discuss a  
22 potential strategic transaction between the two companies. Mr. Tan provided a verbal  
23 indication of a cash price of \$12.00 per share of Brocade common stock.

24 47. The Company executed an engagement letter with Evercore on September 16,  
25 2016, formalizing the previous engagement agreement.

26 48. Later that day, Broadcom delivered a written non-binding indication of interest  
27 at a price of \$12.00 per share. This indication of interest also sought execution of a definitive  
28

1 merger agreement by October 30, 2016.

2       49. That same day, representatives of the Company met with a private equity  
3 sponsor, Sponsor A, to discuss Sponsor A's interest in various potential strategic transactions  
4 with Sponsor A's portfolio companies.

5       50. The next day, the Corporate Development Committee met with Company  
6 Management to discuss the September 16th indication of interest.

7       51. On September 23, 2016, the Corporate Development Committee met again to  
8 discuss potential responses to Broadcom's indication of interest. During this meeting, the  
9 Company identified a list of potential third parties to consider contacting for potential  
10 strategic alternatives to a Broadcom acquisition.

11       52. The Board met on September 25, 2016 to discuss the potential transaction with  
12 Broadcom. After discussing other potential alternatives and reviewing Evercore's  
13 preliminary analysis, the Board directed Defendant Carney to indicate that the offer price of  
14 \$12.00 was too low to accept. Later that day, Defendant Carney informed Mr. Tan of this  
15 decision, but agreed to additional meetings between the companies to discuss a potential  
16 increase in the purchase price.

17       53. After a meeting on September 30, 2016 to discuss a potential increase in the  
18 purchase price, on October 2, 2016, Defendant Carney informed Mr. Tan by telephone that  
19 the Board would not support a transaction at a price below \$13.00 per share. Mr. Tan stated  
20 that he could not meet that price, but would take a price of \$12.75 to his Board as a best and  
21 final proposal.

22       54. On October 3, 2016, the Company received a non-binding indication of  
23 interest at a price of \$12.75 per share in cash as a best and final, seeking a definitive  
24 agreement by October 30, 2016.

25       55. In a meeting on October 4, 2016, the Corporate Development Committee and  
26 Company management met to discuss Broadcom's most recent indication of interest. During  
27 the meeting, the Corporate Development Committee determined that it would recommend  
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1 further negotiation at a price of \$12.75, but that the Company should reach out to other  
2 potential purchasers if it hoped to increase the purchase price. During a meeting on October  
3 5, 2016, the Board agreed to conduct a solicitation process with an aim of seeking a higher  
4 price for the Company.

5 56. Company Management and Evercore reached out to eight parties on October 5  
6 and 6, 2016, equally divided between strategic acquirers and four private equity sponsors.  
7 Two of the strategic parties immediately said no, while the other two stated they would need  
8 to review the opportunity before proceeding. Each of the private equity sponsors agreed to  
9 participate and received non-disclosure agreements.

10 57. On October 6, 2016, one of the private equity sponsors, Sponsor B, requested  
11 to collaborate as a co-bidder with a strategic acquirer. The Company agreed on October 7,  
12 2016.

13 58. On October 10, 2016, another of the strategic parties declined to participate in  
14 the process. The final strategic acquirer declined on October 13, 2016.

15 59. During the week of October 10, 2016, Company management met with the  
16 four private equity sponsors to discuss the Company after each had executed non-disclosure  
17 agreements

18 60. During a meeting on October 15, 2016, the Transaction Committee met and  
19 discussed Sponsor B's co-bidder's interest in acquiring the wireless business of the  
20 Company, while Sponsor B was interested in the remainder of the Company. The  
21 Transaction Committee then discussed alternatives to selling the entire Company, including a  
22 piecemeal approach. Despite the existing interest of a piecemeal sale to Sponsor B and its  
23 co-bidder, the Transaction Committee decided that such a process would be difficult and  
24 require a separate solicitation process to find other potential buyers.

25 61. On October 15, 2016, one of the private equity sponsors, Sponsor C, indicated  
26 that it would bid in the range of \$11.00 to \$11.50 per share. Evercore informed Sponsor C  
27 that such a price would not be competitive, and Sponsor C indicated that it would like not  
28

1 increase its bid. On October 16, 2016, the other private equity sponsor, Sponsor D, indicated  
2 that it would not be interested in a strategic transaction with the Company.

3       62. On October 18, 2016, Sponsor A submitted a non-binding indication of  
4 interest at a price of \$11.50 to \$12.00 per share. The same day, Sponsor C submitted an  
5 indication of interest at the same price range of \$11.50 to \$12.00 per share. Sponsor B  
6 informed Evercore that it would not be submitting a bid because such a bid would not provide  
7 a meaningful premium to the Company's trading price.

8       63. On October 19, 2016, at the direction of the Transaction Committee, Evercore  
9 informed Sponsor A and Sponsor C that their proposed prices were too low. On October 20,  
10 2016, Sponsor A revised its proposed price to \$12.25 per share, but warned that a higher  
11 price would be difficult.

12       64. The Company continued negotiations with the Broadcom throughout this time,  
13 including exchanging revisions of a draft merger agreement.

14       65. On October 29, 2016, Sponsor A and Sponsor C affirmed their interest in an  
15 acquisition of Brocade, but were doubtful that they could support a price above \$12.00 per  
16 share.

17       66. Later that day, the Board met to discuss the ongoing process, and were  
18 informed by Evercore that Sponsors A and C would be unlikely to increase their bids above  
19 \$12.00 per share.

20       67. While negotiations continued on October 31, 2016, the Transaction Committee  
21 agreed to recommend to the Company Board that Brocade should pay Evercore a  
22 discretionary fee contemplated by the engagement. The Definitive Proxy does not provide  
23 the Transaction Committee's reasoning for approving such a payment.

24       68. On October 31, 2016, news reports speculated that the Company was subject  
25 to potential acquisition, and the trading price increased by roughly \$2.00 per share. The next  
26 day, news reports speculated that Broadcom would acquire Brocade and trading prices  
27 increased again.

1       69. During a meeting on November 1, 2016, the Board reviewed the potential  
2 merger. Evercore presented its financial analysis underlying its fairness opinion, to be  
3 provided on November 2, 2016. The Board approved payment of the discretionary fee to  
4 Evercore and unanimously agreed to approve the Merger Agreement.

5       70. Before the opening of trading on November 2, 2016, Broadcom and Brocade  
6 executed the Merger Agreement and issued a press release announcing the Proposed  
7 Transaction.

8 **The Definitive Proxy Fails to Disclose Material Information**

9       71. Defendants filed the Definitive Proxy with the SEC in connection with the  
10 Proposed Transaction. As alleged below and elsewhere herein, the Registration Statement  
11 omits material information that must be disclosed to Brocade's stockholders to enable them  
12 to render an informed decision with respect to the Proposed Transaction.

13       72. The Definitive Proxy omits material information with respect to the process  
14 and events leading up to the Proposed Transaction, as well as the opinions and analyses of  
15 Brocade's financial advisors. This omitted information, if disclosed, would significantly alter  
16 the total mix of information available to Brocade's stockholders.

17       73. Nonetheless, the Definitive Proxy fails to disclose material information and  
18 misleads stockholders regarding the Proposed Transaction. The Definitive Proxy fails to  
19 disclose material information concerning the Company's financial projections. First, the  
20 Proxy discloses several non-GAAP accounting metrics such as Gross Profit, Operating  
21 Income, Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization ("EBITDA"), Net  
22 Income, and Earnings-Per-Share ("EPS"). However, providing only non-GAAP metrics  
23 without disclosing the line item projections for the metrics used to calculate these non-GAAP  
24 measures or otherwise reconciling the non-GAAP projections to GAAP measures makes the  
25 provided disclosures materially incomplete and misleading.

26       74. When a company discloses information in a Proxy that includes non-GAAP  
27 financial measures, the Company must also disclose comparable GAAP measures and a  
28

1 quantitative reconciliation of forward-looking information. 17 C.F.R. § 244.100.

2       75. On May 17, 2016, the SEC’s Division of Corporation Finance released  
 3 updated Compliance and Disclosure Interpretations (“C&DI’s”) on the use of non-GAAP  
 4 financial measures. One of the new C&DI’s regarding forward-looking information, such as  
 5 financial projections, explicitly requires companies to provide *any* reconciling metrics that  
 6 are available without unreasonable efforts. While the Definitive Proxy states that the  
 7 Directors believe that a reconciliation of each disclosed non-GAAP projection would involve  
 8 unreasonable effort, the reasoning offered, including quantification of quantifiable measures  
 9 such as capital expenditures and stock-based compensation, show the flimsy rationale for  
 10 refusing to provide reconciling disclosures.

11       76. Without disclosure of these reconciling metrics, the Definitive Proxy violates  
 12 SEC regulations and materially misleads Brocade stockholders.

13       77. Furthermore, the Definitive Proxy fails to disclose the extent of the conflicts of  
 14 interest faced by Evercore in providing a fairness opinion used to tout the Proposed  
 15 Transaction. The Definitive Proxy states that the Company has engaged Evercore on several  
 16 other acquisitions in the past two years, including the recent acquisition of Ruckus Wireless,  
 17 Inc., but fails to either identify the other acquisitions, or disclose any of the compensation  
 18 paid to Evercore by the Company over the past two years. By failing to disclose this  
 19 information, the Registration Statement misleads Company stockholders as to the magnitude  
 20 of the conflict of interest faced by Evercore. Evercore had motivation to recommend a  
 21 transaction, no matter the price, because it had a profitable relationship it would not betray.

22       78. Evercore faced further conflicts in that it advised Broadcom in the acquisition  
 23 of Avago Technologies Limited in February 2016. Made clear by this disclosure, however, is  
 24 that the Defendants have no valid reason for withholding the compensation paid to Evercore  
 25 by the Company, or the acquisitions Evercore assisted the Company in completing.

26       79. The Definitive Proxy also fails to disclose material information related to  
 27 Evercore’s financial analysis underlying its fairness opinion and the financial projections  
 28

1 || provided by Company Management.

2        80. With respect to Evercore's *Sum-of-the-Parts Analysis* for Brocade, the  
3 Definitive Proxy fails to disclose: (i) the financial figures for each of the examined business  
4 segments; (ii) whether EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA, as used in Evercore's financial  
5 analyses, are different and if so, how they differ; (iii) financial projections of unlevered free  
6 cash flows for the years 2022 to 2026 for the SRA and Storage Networking component.

7        81. Within its description of Evercore's *Sum-of-the-Parts Analysis*, the Definitive  
8 Proxy indicates that Evercore was provided with management projections of unlevered free  
9 cash flows for the entire Company from November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2026, as well as  
10 the terminal value of the Company as of October 31, 2026. Evercore used these projected  
11 values in its discounted cash flow analysis of the SRA and Storage Networking component of  
12 the Company. However, for other business units, including the Storage Networking  
13 component, Evercore only used projections through October 31, 2021. Not only does the  
14 Definitive Proxy omit these material financial projections, but also omits Evercore's  
15 justification for using five-year projections for some business units and ten-year projections  
16 for others.

17        82. These omissions of material fact represent selective disclosures made by  
18 Defendants in the Definitive Proxy that significantly alter the total mix of information that  
19 Defendants used to market the Proposed Transaction. Defendants misled investors into  
20 believing the Proposed Transaction is fair while refusing to disclose the full picture provided  
21 to the Board by its financial advisor.

22       83. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks injunctive and other equitable relief to prevent the  
23 irreparable injury that Company stockholders will continue to suffer absent judicial  
24 intervention

## **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

## COUNT I

## **Claims Against All Defendants for Violations of § 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

1       84. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation set forth above as if fully set  
2 forth herein.

3       85. Rule 14a-9, promulgated by the SEC pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Exchange  
4 Act, provides that Proxy communications with shareholders shall not contain “any statement  
5 which, at the time and in the light of the circumstances under which it is made, is false or  
6 misleading with respect to any material fact, or which omits to state any material fact  
7 necessary in order to make the statements therein not false or misleading.” 17 C.F.R. §  
8 240.14a-9.

9       86. As discussed above, Brocade filed and delivered the Definitive Proxy to its  
10 stockholders, which defendants knew or recklessly disregarded contained material omissions  
11 and misstatements as set forth above.

12       87. Defendants violated § 14(a) and Rule 14a-9 of the Exchange Act by issuing the  
13 Definitive Proxy in which they made untrue statements of material facts or failed to state all  
14 material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the  
15 circumstances under which they are made, not misleading, or engaged in deceptive or  
16 manipulative acts or practices, in connection with the tender offer commenced in conjunction  
17 with the Proposed Transaction. Defendants knew or recklessly disregarded that the Definitive  
18 Proxy failed to disclose material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light  
19 of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

20       88. The Definitive Proxy was prepared, reviewed and/or disseminated by  
21 defendants. It misrepresented and/or omitted material facts, including material information  
22 about the consideration offered to stockholders via the tender offer, the intrinsic value of the  
23 Company, and potential conflicts of interest faced by certain Individual Defendants.

24       89. In so doing, Defendants made untrue statements of material facts and omitted  
25 material facts necessary to make the statements that were made not misleading in violation of  
26 § 14(a) and Rule 14a-9 of the Exchange Act. By virtue of their positions within the Company  
27 and/or roles in the process and in the preparation of the Definitive Proxy, defendants were  
28

1 aware of this information and their obligation to disclose this information in the Definitive  
2 Proxy.

3        90. The omissions and incomplete and misleading statements in the Definitive  
4        Proxy are material in that a reasonable stockholder would consider them important in deciding  
5        whether to tender their shares or seek appraisal. In addition, a reasonable investor would view  
6        the information identified above which has been omitted from the Definitive Proxy as altering  
7        the “total mix” of information made available to stockholders.

8        91. Defendants knowingly or with deliberate recklessness omitted the material  
9 information identified above from the Definitive Proxy, causing certain statements therein to  
10 be materially incomplete and therefore misleading. Indeed, while defendants undoubtedly had  
11 access to and/or reviewed the omitted material information in connection with approving the  
12 Proposed Transaction, they allowed it to be omitted from the Definitive Proxy, rendering  
13 certain portions of the Definitive Proxy materially incomplete and therefore misleading.

14           92. The misrepresentations and omissions in the Definitive Proxy are material to  
15 Plaintiff, and Plaintiff will be deprived of their entitlement to make a fully informed decision  
16 if such misrepresentations and omissions are not corrected prior to the expiration of the tender  
17 offer.

**COUNT II**

20           93. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the preceding allegations as if fully set forth  
21 herein.

22        94. The Individual Defendants acted as controlling persons of Brocade within the  
23 meaning of Section 20(a) of the 1934 Act as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as  
24 officers and/or directors of Brocade and participation in and/or awareness of the Company's  
25 operations and/or intimate knowledge of the false statements contained in the Definitive  
26 Proxy, they had the power to influence and control and did influence and control, directly or

1 indirectly, the decision making of the Company, including the content and dissemination of  
2 the various statements that plaintiff contends are false and misleading.

3       95. Each of the Individual Defendants was provided with or had unlimited access  
4 to copies of the Definitive Proxy alleged by Plaintiff to be misleading prior to and/or shortly  
5 after these statements were issued and had the ability to prevent the issuance of the statements  
6 or cause them to be corrected.

7        96. In particular, each of the Individual Defendants had direct and supervisory  
8 involvement in the day-to-day operations of the Company, and, therefore, is presumed to have  
9 had the power to control and influence the particular transactions giving rise to the violations  
10 as alleged herein, and exercised the same. The Definitive Proxy contains the unanimous  
11 recommendation of the Individual Defendants to approve the Proposed Transaction. They  
12 were thus directly in the making of the Definitive Proxy.

13           97. By virtue of the foregoing, the Individual Defendants violated Section 20(a) of  
14 the 1934 Act.

15        98. As set forth above, the Individual Defendants had the ability to exercise control  
16 over and did control a person or persons who have each violated Section 14(a) of the 1934 Act  
17 and Rule 14a-9, by their acts and omissions as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as  
18 controlling persons, these defendants are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the 1934 Act. As  
19 a direct and proximate result of defendants' conduct, Plaintiff is threatened with irreparable  
20 harm.

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

22       **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff demands judgment against defendants jointly and severally, as  
23 follows:

- 24           (A) declaring this action to be a class action and certifying Plaintiff as the Class  
25           representatives and her counsel as Class counsel;  
26           (B) declaring that the Recommendation Statement is materially false or misleading;  
27           (C) enjoining, preliminarily and permanently, the Proposed Transaction;

(D) in the event that the transaction is consummated before the entry of this Court's final judgment, rescinding it or awarding Plaintiff and the Class rescissory damages;

(E) directing that Defendants account to Plaintiff and the other members of the Class for all damages caused by them and account for all profits and any special benefits obtained as a result of their breaches of their fiduciary duties.

(F) awarding Plaintiff the costs of this action, including a reasonable allowance for the fees and expenses of Plaintiff's attorneys and experts; and

(G) granting Plaintiff and the other members of the Class such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

## JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

DATED: January 5, 2017

Respectfully submitted

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